

EQUITY WATCH

Policy, research, resources, and news related to minority and women's issues curated biweekly by the
Research, Policy & Impact Center **Jan 20, 2023**

HOUSING

No area is affordable: New Triangle housing report reveals challenges for most buyers: A family in the Triangle living on a median household income earns just 70 percent of what they need to comfortably buy a house. [-ABC11](#)

Is \$50 million enough for affordable housing? And 4 more Charlotte summit takeaways: \$50 million can only fund 300 of the 32,000 units that are needed to meet the needs of Charlotteans who don't have an affordable place to live.
[-Charlotte Observer](#)

'The economic consequences are real': The government is taking steps to make the home-appraisal process more fair, after reports and a new docuseries reveal instances of racial bias and undervaluations. [-Market Watch](#)

HUD Announces New Proposed "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing" Rule, Taking a Major Step Towards Rooting out Longstanding Inequities in Housing and Fostering Inclusive Communities: Rule expands upon HUD's previous policy, implementing opportunities for transparency and accountability while bolstering economic equity for American families. [-U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

HUD Announces \$5.5 Million in Funding Opportunity for Hispanic Serving Institutions: The \$5.5 million will help establish research Centers of Excellence (COEs) to conduct housing and community development research for underserved communities. [-U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

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HEALTH

Cost of Living: Effect on the Nation's Mental Health: Rising cost of living is having a serious impact on stress levels, mental health, addictions, physical ailments, and relationships as family members are focused into working more hours to cover bills.

[-Rehab Recovery](#)

Comprehensive food nutrition program aims to combat disparities in diabetes treatments: Fresh Start provides in-person group classes, a produce prescription and one-on-one health coaching to help address social determinants of health complicating diabetes management for low-income, uninsured patients in Eastern North Carolina.

[-NC Health News](#)

This state could be the last one (for a while, anyway) to expand Medicaid: North Carolina appears on track to become the 40th state to expand Medicaid. It all depends on what the legislature – which returns to Raleigh today – does. [-NC Health News](#)

Flywheel Foundation announces Health Equity Innovation Challenge Launch in Concord: The Challenge is a business idea competition seeking solutions to problems that cause disparities in healthcare outcomes for those living in North Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Rowan, Stanly and Iredell Counties. [-WBTV](#)

Out of prison, but struggling to stay healthy: People released from incarceration suffer massive health problems — from diabetes to substance use disorders — and are 13 times more likely to die soon after release. To address these issues, hospitals are employing formerly incarcerated people to help. [-AAMC News](#)

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SMALL BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New government funding package includes 'historic step forward' for pregnant workers, new mothers: Pregnant workers and birthing parents are poised to get new workplace protections, thanks to two amendments included in the \$1.7 trillion federal government spending package. - [CNBC](#)

'It bothers me' | CRVA overlooked qualified minority and women-owned small businesses for \$750K job: The Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority paid one small business more than \$750,000 over the last decade without giving minority and women-owned businesses an equal shot at the same job. - [WCNC](#)

Women and minority-owned businesses look to expand in 2023: Business owners say inflation and commodity prices are the two largest factors impacting their businesses. Despite the economic challenges, they are planning to expand in 2023. - [Spectrum News 1](#)

Black entrepreneurs highlight value of representation: "Just want to show (young people) ... my face in here and know that there is somebody who looks like them that's running their own business". - [ABC11 News](#)

NC at 'forefront' of clean energy transformation which could mean more jobs, investment: The state is preparing workers for roles in the clean energy sector; in August 2022, North Carolina A&T State University received a \$23.7 million grant to create and launch a clean energy workforce training program. - [WRAL Tech Wire](#)

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EDUCATION

U.S. Department of Education Awards Over \$35 Million for Grants to Support Cradle-to-Career Solutions in High-Needs Communities:

The Promise Neighborhoods and Project Prevent grant programs will provide support services and programs to students from low-income backgrounds and mitigate the impacts of exposure to community violence. [-U.S. Department of Education](#)

New report shows North Carolina's K-12 public school funding is among the lowest in the country: Out of all 50 states and D.C., North Carolina was ranked 48th for funding level, and received a distribution grade of C for the 5% difference in state funding for low-poverty and high-poverty districts. [-EdNC](#)

Thousands of NC students can't pay for school lunch: The end of a pandemic-era federal free school lunch program is putting a strain on schools across the state with more than \$1.3 million in student meal debt. [-CBS17](#)

Regional leaders discuss a new STEM education alliance for Eastern North Carolina: The new alliance will operate at the intersection of education, professional learning, workforce development, and economic development to reverse the decline of the region's homegrown workforce. [-EdNC](#)

U.S. Department of Education Awards Project SERV Grants to North Carolina Central University, Philander Smith College, and Hampton University: Project SERV grants were awarded to three HBCUs that experienced bomb threats last year. Schools will use funds to address student safety concerns. [-U.S. Department of Education](#)